

Message Text

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10

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 OMB-01

RSR-01 /079 W

----- 070045

R 130654Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5993

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC CP SMITH HAWAII

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, JA, AS

SUBJ: GOJ NAMES KENZO YOSHIDA AEP TO AUSTRALIA

REF: TOKYO 10209

1. ON AUG 7 GOJ ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT OF KENZO YOSHIDA AS AEP TO AUSTRALIA (REFTEL). CAREER DIPLOMAT YOSHIDA SERVED AS DIRECTOR, ASIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU, MOFA JAN 1972 TO PRESENT.

2. YOSHIDA WAS BORN SEPT 19, 1917. ENTERED MOFA 1939 AND SENT TO CHINA AS OVERSEAS TRAINEE IN 1940. HE CONTINUED STUDIES WHILE ABROAD AND GRADUATED LAW FACULTY, TOKYO UNIVERSITY JAN 1942. HE IMMEDIATELY JOINED ARMY AND REMAINED ON ACTIVE DUTY (2ND LT) UNTIL DEMOBILIZED FEB 1946. FROM MARCH 1946 TO MARCH 1948 HE WAS ASSIGNED TO RESEARCH BUREAU MOFA. YOSHIDA WAS DETAILED BRIEFLY TO REPARATIONS AGENCY (UNDER PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE) AND LATER IN 1948 SENT TO UNITED STATES FOR STUDY (UNIVERSITY NOT KNOWN). RETURNED TO TOKYO IN 1951 AND ASSIGNED TO FOREIGN TRADE BUREAU OF ECONOMIC STABILIZATION AGENCY (LATER TO ECONOMIC PLANNING AGENCY). HE WAS CONCURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO GENERAL AFFAIRS

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AGENCY). HE WAS CONCURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO GENERAL AFFAIRS

SECTION OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT AND BECAME FIRST SECRETARY IN 1954.

3. POSTED TO TORONTO AS CONSUL (1954-1956), YOSHIDA RETURNED TO JAPAN TO BECOME CHIEF, NORTH AMERICAN (2ND) SECTION, ECONOMIC BUREAU, MOFA (1956-1958). HE WAS THEN NAMED CHIEF OF ACCOUNTING SECTION MOFA IN MARCH 1958. TRANSFERRED TO IMMIGRATION BUREAU AS FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNSELOR (WITH CONCURRENT ASSIGNMENT TO FOREIGN MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT) IN JUNE 1961. HE WAS THEN NAMED CONSUL GENERAL, HONOLULU (1961-1963). SENT TO LONDON AS COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY IN LATE 1963, HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO ROK AS COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY IN DEC 1965. PROMOTED TO MINISTER IN DEC 1966, AND THEN NAMED AMB TO TANZANIA IN MARCH 1967. HE SUBSEQUENTLY SERVED AS DIRECTOR, IMMIGRATION BUREAU (FOREIGN SERVICE POST IN JUSTICE MINISTRY) FROM AUG 1969 TO DEC 1971. HE THEN ASSUMED CURRENT POST AS DIRECTOR, ASIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU.

4. MARRIED, YOSHIDA AND WIFE, KIYO, HAVE TWO DAUGHTERS. HE PLAYS GOLF AND SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH.

5. ALTHOUGH YOSHIDA APPEARS TO HAVE REASONABLY GOOD REPUTATION WITHIN MOFA, EMBASSY AND OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS HAVE NOT BEEN IMPRESSED. DESPITE REPEATED ATTEMPTS WE HAVE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH RAPPORT WITH HIM (IN CONTRAST TO OUR EXPERIENCE WITH MOST MOFA OFFICIALS) THOUGH HE HAS BEEN POLITE AND USUALLY GENIAL. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT HE DID NOT PROVIDE STRONG OR PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP AS DIRECTOR OF ASIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU, AND HE IS LEAVING THAT ASSIGNMENT AFTER RELATIVELY SHORT TENURE. ON OTHER HAND, MOFA CONSIDERS CANBERRA INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT POST FOR JAPANESE INTERESTS, AND HAS TAKEN NOTE OF FACT THAT BOTH USG AND PRC HAVE SENT HIGHLY EXPERIENCED DIPLOMATS THERE. SHOESMITH

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